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SUBJECT: Translation of Communist Booklet: The Fundamental Knowledge  
for a Communist, Book I

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1. CHAPTER I: Qualification of a Communist.

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- a. Chinese Communist Party is the political party of Chinese proletarians. It is the most progressive and the most revolutionary party. Only Communist Party can save China, succeed in revolution and liberate Chinese proletarians and all people.
- b. Who can be a Communist? Since Communist Party is a Proletarians' party, the elements of the party must be good. Not everyone can join the party. Only those who are loyal to the revolution, have faith in Communism, support Communist politics, intend to join the Party and obey Party regulations (Party charges must be paid in due time also) can be members of Communist Party.
- c. The intention of joining the Party must be for revolution. Some comrades in branch departments join the Party for revolution, but many comrades do not understand this intention. For instance, some poor farmers and laborers join the Party only to obtain land, receive relief, or increase their wages. Some comrades join the Party only to fight against Japan. Some middle class comrades join the Party only to reduce their burden to the government. Although their intention of joining the Party is not the same, they must have a clear recognition after joining the Party. Communists join the party not only for liberating themselves but also for liberating all proletarians. Communists are fighting against Japan and feudalism in present time and shall realize Communism in the future. Only at that time can all proletarians be liberated. All Communists must endeavor to fight for this intention.

2. CHAPTER 2: Elements of the Communists. Communists are the pioneers and progressive elements of proletarians. Branch departments must pay great attention to attracting members. In villages of Central Hopei, we must pay attention to attract the following elements:

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- a. Laborers in villages: All kind of laborers in the villages or from towns are proletarians. The best elements of these must be attracted to join the Party.
  - b. Poor farmers: All the poor farmers are the most reliable assistants of revolutionary work. After land rent was reduced, many poor farmers got enough to eat. They must be attracted to join the Party.
  - c. Work women: All kinds of work women and poor family women are needed. Female Communists are very scarce in the Party. Every Party member, especially female members, must endeavor to attract female members as much as possible.
  - d. Poor intelligentsia in villages and revolutionary young students: Poor workers and farmers are the basis of the Party, but we should not abandon sincere elements of other classes. Yet we still must resist spies and speculators who desire to join the Party.
3. CHAPTER 3: Regulations of the Party. Communist Party is the party of proletarians aiming at the liberation of proletarians. For accomplishing this revolutionary mission, there are four fundamental regulations which should be obeyed by every member:
- a. Individuals obey the organization: That means every member must obey the indication and order of the Party. Since branch departments are the fundamental organization of the Party, every member must obey the decisions of branch departments. Even personal affairs of the members should be told to the organization.
  - b. Majority rules: Indeed, every member must show his own idea about party affairs, but, when decisions are made by the majority, every one should do his best to realize the decisions. If a few members feel the decisions are not right and might endanger the work, they may report their ideas to higher authorities while still doing the work according to the original decisions. They cannot reform the decisions or delay the work unless new orders arrive from higher authorities.
  - c. Class obedience: Small groups obey branch departments. Branch departments obey Regional Commissioner. The leadership of higher authorities must be respected. Work decided by higher authorities must be accomplished. Any idea about higher authorities must be discussed with them and should not be disclosed to elements outside of the Party.
  - d. The whole Party obeys Central Executive Committee: Every member must obey the direction and leadership of the Central Executive Committee and President MAO Tse-tung. The whole Party must be one unit.
4. CHAPTER 4: Regulations of the Party (continued). All the regulations of the Party have a compulsory characteristic. That is to say, every member not only voluntarily obeys, but is also forced to obey them.
- a. A Communist must have the good habit of obeying regulations. He must not obey them in speech but in actions. He must not only obey them when he is seen by many people, but also in his own private affairs. He must not only obey them himself, but he must make other members obey them too.
  - b. Party members must also obey legal orders of the government and regulations of the masses. Every evil action, such as corruption, prodigality, and delinquency must be avoided in order not to give a bad impression on the mass.
  - c. Punishment for members who disobey regulations of the Party: If a member disobeys regulations of the Party unintentionally he is only advised to rectify his errors. If he disobeys the regulations intentionally, or will not rectify his errors after being advised, he must be punished in order to warn other members.

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5. CHAPTER 5: Secret Works. The trouble with enemies of the Party is growing in proportion to the strength of the Party, especially in Central Hopei. Therefore each member should pay great attention to secret works. The following things must be kept secret:

- a. Do not tell anybody that you are a Communist. Without the introduction of the Party, do not keep contact with any other members of small groups.
- b. Do not talk about anything which is forbidden. Anything going on inside the Party is not allowed to be told to anyone who is not a member.
- c. Do not try to know anything which is not necessary for you to know concerning the Party. Do not tell other members anything which is forbidden to them.
- d. Documents of the Party must not be lost or given to anyone, even for a look.
- e. Military actions must be kept secret.
- f. Secret work is necessary to avoid trouble with our enemies and unnecessary risk. There are two mistakes made by comrades in their secret work. Some comrades seldom care about secret work, while some comrades keep too much secret. They are both wrong. Communist comrades must pay great attention to our enemies and must work actively. If you are working for the people, they should support you

the private affairs of the members be developed. If some members put their private interest and press other people by using their position in the Party, this is destroying the Party. Someone would say that human beings are selfish animals. This is the wrong idea. Communists are only seeking for the benefit of the Party and of the people. They must not be selfish.

- b. Indeed, members have their own interests which may be contrary to the benefit of the Party. At that time members must do favor for the Party first and then for himself. Sometimes they must even abandon their own interests. If the work appointed by the Party requires that a member depart from his family, he must depart from his family. If the mission of the Party meets some difficulty, comrades must accomplish it without any fear of danger even if this danger includes sacrifice of his life. Some comrades place self-interest above the benefit of the Party; they would not accept any mission for the Party if there would be any danger or difficulty. This is not the proper attitude of a Communist.
- c. When there is no risk to the benefit of the Party, Communist members may take care of their own interests. This is very natural. A Communist in a village must produce well and live well. Whenever possible, the Party must take care of the demands of members and settle the difficulties of members in order that the members may work without any trouble. Members must help poor members who are unable to make a living. Branch departments must take care of the family life of members. Members must also take care of any comrades falling into trouble. This is the fraternal love of Communists. This is for the benefit of the Party.

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7. CHAPTER 7: Background of Communists. The background of Communism is the background of the Party and of proletarians. The background of Communism is as follows:

- a. Communists must stand together with the broad masses and help them with the spirit of fraternal love. For instance, to settle difficulties of the families of Communist troops, to settle the problem of plantation of poor farmers, and to improve the lives of workmen. Each Communist must take care of the difficulties of the proletarians and of the masses. Devise some measures to lead them to fight for benefits for themselves. Comrades who neglect the broad masses are forgetting the background of Communism.
- b. As regards landlords, Communist Party must treat them differently because some of the landlords will fight against Japan; some would not and some would fight with their full strength. Some landlords agree with democracy and improvement of people's livelihood, while some others would not agree with these. We must not beat them all. We welcome anyone who shows even a little intention against Japan. But if they do not obey governmental legislation and orders, or they object against the broad masses and Communist Party, then the Party must lead the masses to fight against them. Fighting against them is for the benefit of the broad masses in order to unite together for fighting against Japan. Members must refute propaganda against the Party at any time and at any place. Otherwise this will be a risk to the Party.
- c. In view of this background, there are two weak points in some comrades. One is that the material temptation of feudal landlords make some comrades forget their background; the other is to fight against these landlords too severely. These are both against the Unified Front Policy of the Party. We must unite in a majority. No temptation can agitate us and we would not do anything against our policy.
- d. Communists must fight against all enemies of the Party insistently without any agitation. We will succeed under the leadership of the Party and of President MAC. We must not be cheated by our enemies. We must not be pessimistic in difficulty. When a member falls into the hands of our enemy he must have the insistent conception that he would rather die than rebel against the Party. Many good comrades in Central Hopei ~~have~~ shown excellent spirit in their work and some of them have sacrificed their lives for the Party. This is the model spirit of all Communists. We must learn from them. This is an insistent background of a Communist.

8. CHAPTER 8: Self Condemnation. Communists emphasize truth and are brave enough to recognize their own errors. Comrades in our village are not the best ones. They still have some weak points. These Communists must condemn themselves and other members mutually. This is to make members and the Party progressive. How shall we proceed with self-condemnation?

- a. A Communist must not hide his weak points and errors. He must humbly accept the suggestion and condemnation of other comrades to rectify his weak points and errors. When a Communist makes an error among the people, he must recognize it and rectify it. Do not hide your errors.
- b. When a Communist sees the weak points or errors of other comrades, he must sincerely condemn and make a suggestion. This is to help other comrades to rectify their errors.
- c. When a Communist notices the errors of his higher authority or learns of them from the masses, he must report this to the authority and must not speak of it at any other place. Mutual condemnation is not only for higher authorities to condemn lower comrades, but comrades can also condemn the errors of higher authorities. Higher authorities must accept their suggestion humbly.

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- d. If there are some physical conflicts or conflict in ideas between some comrades, they must condemn themselves before they condemn the other. If the condemnation is not right, Communists may make an explanation so as not to conflict in ideas. When the trouble is settled, they should be fraternal comrades again. When self-condemnation is carried out in branch departments, some comrades are not happy to condemn or to be condemned. Some comrades look upon self-condemnation as a good chance for revenge. They are wrong. The attitude of self-condemnation must be proper and definite in order to make comrades and the Party progressive.

9. CHAPTER 9: How to Hold a Meeting

- a. Each member must join a small group. A small group is a school for members.
- b. In the ordinary meeting of a small group, four items are to be discussed:
- (1) First, to inspect the merits or demerits of the work done by a comrade during the past period.
  - (2) Secondly, to discuss how to proceed with work newly appointed by higher authorities. All members must show their own ideas about this work. The decisions made by the majority will be the plan of work.
  - (3) Thirdly, self-condemnation. Each member should condemn himself first and then condemn mutually.
  - (4) Finally, members must study a current problem of the Party.
- c. The chief of a small group is the leader of his members in all the details of their lives. A good chief must urge each member to accomplish the work of the group. He must understand each member very well and try his best to settle the difficulties of each member. He must hold meetings at the proper time. These are the duties of a chief of a small group.
- d. The meeting of a small group must be held at the leisure of members and must not be too long. Ordinarily, a meeting must not last over two hours and a half. Some meetings develop too-complicated programs; some meetings waste time by discussing useless things, and some meetings develop too simple a program. These are all errors. Small groups must improve the lives of the members and accomplish all the necessary work.

10. CHAPTER 10: Daily Routine of a Member. Branch departments in Central Hopei are the centers for leading troops, government, schools, and the people. Each member must work for the Party according to the orders of the branch departments. The daily routines of a member are as follows:

- a. First of all they must lead villagers to do all the work in the village, and the work must be done well. This depends upon the opinion of the broad masses. Members should do what the masses agree with, but not what the masses do not agree with. If the masses do not understand what members are doing, members should make them understand well. Members must be models to the masses, then the work will be easily done.
- b. The second work is to lead the villagers to cultivate the land. Each member must not only cultivate his own land well; he must also lead the villagers to cultivate their lands well. He should make a plan of cultivation for his family, and he must organize the villagers to plant systematically. Only by this means can production be increased.
- c. The third work is to unite the people. Each member should unite with several families of the village and help them as much as possible, especially poor families. Make other families unite too. Respect the habits or customs of other families. Try to make them produce. This can unite the masses for the Party.

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- d. The fourth work is to propagate the policy and assertions of the Party. Use every opportunity to learn what the villagers think and to explain the policies and assertions of the Party to them. Do not exaggerate and do not speak like you are reading from books. Speak with your own words. Make the mass believe and they will support you.
- e. The fifth work is to elect people who are qualified to be members of the Party and try to attract them. These are the necessary daily duties of a Communist.

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